

**State Program Standing Committee**  
**Child, Adolescent, and Family Unit**  
Division of Mental Health  
Department of Health  
Agency of Human Services

**Minutes of May 21, 2007 Meeting**  
Burlington  
12:00 – 2:00

*Present:* Kathy Holsopple, Zachary Hughes, Karen Mehrtens, Joy Prior

*Absent:* Robin Yandell, Amy Churchill

*Guests:* Charlie Biss, Alice Maynard, Coleen Lillie for Robin

**I. Updates**

- A. Approval of previous minutes: Tabled until next meeting; Alice to bring copies.
- B. **July 23 meeting date moved to the new date of July 30** to participate in the Planning Council meeting on the mental health block grant from 2:00 – 4:00 in Waterbury. We will meet as a SPSC from 12:00 – 1:45 in Waterbury. Room locations will be announced closer to the meeting.
- C. Legislative matters:
  - Charlie reported that Mental Health will once again have a Commissioner and be a department. At least in the near future, nothing else will change. We will continue to share infrastructure with the Department of Health for business and information technology; we do not anticipate moving staff away from Burlington. We will continue to move forward on integrating mental health with physical health and substance abuse as directed by the new legislation.
  - It appears that the Agency of Human Services (AHS) and education will examine how together they use Medicaid, with a primary focus on Developmental Services and autism.
  - There appears to be a Senate request for a summer study on Success Beyond Six. We have not yet seen the final version so we do not know the requirements/goals/parameters of the study.
  - AHS is working on a plan for transition age youth that looks beyond youth in state custody.
  - There may be a summer study on Pervasive Developmental Disorder (PDD).
  - There may be a class action lawsuit for children with autism and other developmental issues. It is possible the study will focus on case management and EPSDT Medicaid.
- D. Other:
  - Kathy reported that Children's Mental Health Day at the legislature (May 5) was a success. A terrific number of families attended, 250 trees were donated, and many people stopped to ask questions. They also learned some valuable lessons in planning for next year's event.
  - SPSC membership

Alice reviewed the status of appointments; we did not get appointments in 2006 when the Governor declined to appoint nominees living in Chittenden and Washington counties. We have also been struggling to find youth representatives. We now need to nominate people for 2007 appointments as well. Joy and Kathy have suggested some potential parent names. Coleen volunteered to pursue some youth representatives from Addison, Franklin, and Grand Isle counties.

- Coleen reported on the re-naming of HowardCenter.

## **II. Designation: Clara Martin Center (CMC)**

After discussion, members voted to recommend that CMC be re-designated with no required action plan beyond their submitted accessibility improvement plan. Members also want to insert a broad statement in the Program Review report that agency staff need to maintain a respectful attitude toward families, even when families are not present. Alice will insert the comment in 4.4.

Members asked that CAFU report on the number of “families interviewed” in the Program Review reports, how many families were invited to the review, and how and when the invitations were extended. CAFU agreed to increase the prominence of this part of the process in future reviews and to report back on the results.

## **III. Satisfaction Surveys**

Alice reported that the 2007 survey of youth is underway, with the follow-up mailing already sent out.

Members reviewed and discussed aspects of the 2006 survey of parents. Suggestions for future surveys include:

- Adding questions:
  - Did you receive the services agreed to in your Individual Plan of Care?
  - Are your phone calls returned promptly?
- Perhaps consolidate the state survey with DA program/service level surveys to avoid inundating families with surveys and reducing everyone’s rate of return. What is the trade-off with a survey that is notably longer?
- Give people more options to complete the survey:
  - Keep mailing hard copy
  - Provide on-line option
  - Provide phone option
- Outcome results may be consistently lower for a variety of reasons. One reason may be connected to the individual child and family’s level of need/disability. Consider analyzing the data to account for this factor.